



# Applying for a student or petition-based worker nonimmigrant visa?

## You may not need an interview.

Recognizing the tremendous opportunities that U.S. work and study offer, and the important contributions of international visitors to U.S. communities, campuses, and the economy, the Department of State has streamlined visa processes for many applicants while continuing to protect national security.

## Here's what you need to know:



### Interview Waiver for Non-Immigrant Work and Student Visas

Through **December 31, 2022**, the Department of State is authorized to waive in-person interview requirements for certain applicants and their qualifying derivatives in the following nonimmigrant visa classifications:

#### Students:

F, M, and academic  
J visas

#### Workers:

H-1, H-2, H-3, and  
individual L visas

#### Culture and Extraordinary Ability:

O, P, and Q visas

Consular officers will continue to waive the in-person interview for applicants **renewing a visa in the same visa classification within 48 months** of the prior visa's expiration.



### Who Qualifies?

To be eligible for the expanded interview waiver program, applicants seeking these visa classifications must meet all the following requirements:

- ✓ Have previously been issued any type of U.S. visa;
- ✓ Have never been refused a U.S. visa unless the refusal was overcome or a waiver of ineligibility was obtained;
- ✓ Have no indication of ineligibility or potential visa ineligibility (some exceptions may apply, please see [website](#) for more information);
- ✓ Be a resident or national of the country in which they are applying, and;
- ✓ Does not require additional processing, among other criteria.

*Consular officers may require an interview after reviewing the visa application.*



### Academic Training Extension for J-1 Students in STEM

The U.S. has extended the period of academic training to **up to 36 months** for eligible exchange visitors pursuing studies in the STEM fields.

- ✓ Undergrad and pre-doctoral J-1 students pursuing or who recently completed STEM-related studies in the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 academic years and for exchange students who meet the academic training requirements.

Exchange visitors interested in this extension should contact their **Department-designated sponsor** under the Exchange Visitor Program, who can **apply for their extension on their behalf**.

### Facilitating travel remains a top priority for the U.S. Mission in India.

Impact in India includes:

- **75,000+** visas adjudicated this year, including **40,000+** H and L visas
- **84%** more nonimmigrant visas processed this year compared to last year
- **100,000+** student and exchange visitor visas adjudicated from June 2021 to January 2022

For more information please visit [in.usembassy.gov/visas/](https://in.usembassy.gov/visas/) or [travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov).